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<b>USAID/OFDA Quarterly Program Performance Report</b>	
<b>Program Title: Restore food security and health of conflict - affected and displaced populations in the Central African Republic</b>	
<b>Project Dates: September 20, 2015 – September 19, 2016</b>	
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<b>Country/Region:</b>	Central African Republic (CAR)
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<b>Type of Disaster:</b>	Recovery from Civil Conflict

## SUMMARY

This report captures progress against planned activities, Indicators and Objectives from January 1 to March 31 2016. The main activities completed within the reporting period were:

- **Objective 1:** Vegetable seed distributions are ongoing and will be completed in the coming weeks
- **Objective 2:** WASH infrastructure works have commenced

Security has in general been good and sites have been accessible allowing good progress to be made. However a community protest against Tearfund's employment policy necessitated the suspension of programme activities around Boda for a week while negotiations were ongoing. A resolution has been reached and works recommenced in mid February. Tearfund is monitoring the situation closely and the Human Resources Department is ensuring that the community receives clear communications.

## **SECTOR 1: Agriculture and Food Security**

### **Objective 1: Targeted Beneficiary households have restored crop production, livestock and food consumption**

All the sites were accessible during January to March and there were no significant security issues, allowing work to progress. However the food security project manager resigned unexpectedly, so to ensure that delivery is not impacted Tearfund have seconded staff from another programme to support on food security. There has been an additional obstacle in communities as they are unwilling to share the tools distributed within groups, as it is their habit to work individually therefore Tearfund is seeking to source GIK from FAO.

### **Beneficiary and Village Beneficiary Committee (VBC) selection and Beneficiary training on techniques of farming**

Training of VBC and Rural Farmer associations on improved techniques for farming was conducted from the 12 to 25 March during which 238 (95%) of VBCs were reached. The remaining 5% were unable to come to the training and will be followed up in ongoing field monitoring visits. Thereafter, VBCs trained beneficiaries with 65 sessions on improved vegetable farming techniques having now been completed reaching 1,167 beneficiary farmers. The training is still ongoing and will be completed in the next month. However nutrition training was postponed until Q3 due to the delays caused by the community protest.

### **Crop and vegetable seeds and tools distribution**

Distribution has been the priority during this period. Farmers have been preparing their fields for planting at a slower rate than expected which slightly delayed the distribution of vegetable seeds, to ensure that the land was ready. The distribution of seeds was finally completed on the 03/17/2016 due to delays in supply. Tearfund has selected quick growing vegetables like amaranth and spinach, to ensure food production during the hunger gap. A total of 2,118 vulnerable households received vegetable seeds during the planting period in Feb-March 2016. This has resulted in an overreach in the number of beneficiaries since the continued displacement has resulted in household sizes that were larger than expected consequently 12,708 individuals have been reached with seed distribution. In addition, each farm received agricultural tools (1 hoe) for cultivation.

### **Animal husbandry training**

The project aims to restock 500 vulnerable families through provision of small livestock and training on animal husbandry. During this quarter training on animal husbandry took place. Topics included how to build a pen, general poultry production techniques, animal feeds and hygiene and disease control. 125 selected vulnerable families were trained including 87 households living in IDP camps in Boda. The distribution of chicks will commence in April.

### **Table 3: Summary of project activities planned and executed January 1st to March 31st 2016**

Activity	Progress/Achievement
<b>Sub sector 1: Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security</b>	
Beneficiary Selection and formation of VBCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed in the last Quarter</li> </ul>
Crop and vegetable seeds and tools distribution (2,000HH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,118 vulnerable households received vegetable seeds during the planting period in Feb-March 2016. In addition, each farm received agricultural tool (1 hoe) for cultivation</li> </ul>
Training of VBC and Rural Farmer association (250) on nutritional diversity and techniques of farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>238 VBCs participated in TOT training and 65 training sessions were carried out in the field by the trained VBCs. 1,167 beneficiary households were trained on improved vegetable farming techniques.</li> </ul>
Training on cross-cutting issues (500 HH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This activity will occur next quarter</li> </ul>
Training VBCs on Humanitarian Accountability principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This activity will occur next quarter</li> </ul>
<b>Sub sector 2: Livestock</b>	
Livestock distribution to 500 HH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During this quarter, 125 selected vulnerable families were trained on animal husbandry before the commencement of the livestock distribution, including IDPs living in camps in Boda. The distribution of livestock will take place in April.</li> </ul>

**Table 2: Impact Indicator Progress**

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
<b>Sub-Sector 1 : Improving Agricultural Production and Food Security</b>					
Indicator 1	Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary households.	3.4	4	This indicator will be measured at the end of the project	
Indicator 2	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex.	0	Total: 11,250	Total: 12,317	Total: 12,708
			Male: 5,602	Male: 5,651	Male: 5,846
			Female: 5,648	Female: 6,666	Female: 6,862

Indicator 3	Percentage of vegetable seed beneficiary households cultivating vegetable gardens by the end of the project period	0	1,600	This Indicator will be measured at the end of the project period	
Indicator 4	% of the target population who achieve Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)	36%	65%	This Indicator will be measured at the end of the project period	
Sub-Sector 2 : Livestock					
Indicator 1	Number of people benefiting from Livestock Activities by sex	0	2,500	0	0
			Male: 1,245	Male: 0	Male:0
			Female: 1,255	Female: 0	Female: 0
Indicator 2	Number of animals benefitting from or affected by livestock activities	0	2,000	0	0

## **SECTOR 2: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

### **Objective 2: To restore access to potable water supply and sanitation facilities among conflict affected communities**

A limited number of service providers in the local market combined with a number of ongoing WASH infrastructure projects in Lobaye District means that sourcing for contractors has been challenging. However contractors have been identified, contracts have been prepared and work began in March to ensure completion by the end of May before the commencement of the rainy season.

**Establishment of WASH Committees (30):** 40 WASH committees were established in communities where water points are being rehabilitated and protected - this is higher than planned following mapping of water points which indicated that some villages required more than 1 water point to comply with SPHERE standards. Where there were no water user committees, Tearfund worked with community leaders to identify respected community members to serve on the voluntary committee. The committees include a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer and two pump caretakers. Committees established received continued support and refresher training. A total of 340 WASH committee members (250 males and 90 females) from 40 WASH Committees were trained. Twenty (20) members did not attend the training. These will be reached out to during monitoring visits by the Tearfund WASH Team.

**Hygiene Promotion Training (60 promoters in 30 communities):** 60 CHVs were trained in hygiene promotion techniques using the PHAST tool kit. The training content included, community mobilisation, WASH related illnesses, Symptoms and treatment at household level, handwashing with soap, drinking

safe water and safe disposal of human excreta. Further topics on sanitation were also covered including maintaining the latrines clean and operation and maintenance of WASH Facilities.

#### **Hygiene and Sanitation Media**

The project will support the production of 8 radio spots to be broadcast via existing rural radio across the Lobaye prefecture during Q3. In addition to its hygiene and sanitation officers, Tearfund will engage health experts from government ministries and respected leaders to deliver the hygiene and sanitation messages in the local language to the Lobaye prefecture. This will include phone-in sessions to address pertinent issues raised by listeners.

#### **Rehabilitation of 16 Boreholes and 12 shallow wells and protection of 8 springs.**

Contractors have been identified, the contracts prepared and work started in March. The number of boreholes to be rehabilitated was revised to 16 following a mapping exercise. To date 4 out of the 16 boreholes have been repaired. 2,280 people now have access to safe water. Works continue on the remaining 12 boreholes. Works on the 12 shallow wells and 8 springs has just begun. The contractors have strengthened their teams by increasing the number of workers and working more hours so that they can complete all the works by 30 May 2016. Tearfund is confident that the strategies which are now in place will ensure that the construction works will be completed on time.

**Table 3: Summary of project activities planned and executed January 1st to March 31st 2016**

Activity	Progress/Achievement
<b>Sub sector 1: Sanitation Infrastructure</b>	
Beneficiary Selection	All community beneficiaries for water supply have been selected. All of the communities are also benefitting from food security interventions in order to wholistically address the needs of the targeted communities.
Train CHVs	60 community volunteers (34 males and 26 females) from 30 villages were successfully trained. Two community volunteers represented each village.
Distribution of digging tools	30 kits were distributed to 26 communities (4 kits were broken by beneficiaries hence an additional 4 were distributed).
<b>Sub sector 2: Hygiene Promotion</b>	
Establishment of WASH Committees (30)	A total of 340 WASH committee members (250 males and 90 females) from 40 WASH Committees were trained. Each committee was represented by 9 members. Twenty (20) members did not attend the training. These will be reached out to during monitoring visits by the Tearfund WASH Team. They will also be mentored and coached by the other members who attended the training. Each training session lasted for three days. The training content included operation and maintenance of WASH

	facilities, maintaining good hygiene at water points, mobilising other villages to fund O and M activities, basic book keeping and how to conduct meetings.
Hygiene Promotion Training (60 promoters in 30 communities)	60 CHV were trained in hygiene promotion techniques using the PHAST tool kit. The training content included, community mobilisation, WASH related illnesses, symptoms and treatment at household level, handwashing with soap, drinking safe water and safe disposal of human excreta. Further topics on sanitation were also covered including maintaining latrines clean and operation and the maintenance of WASH Facilities.
Water Point maintenance & repair	The contract has been awarded and works have commenced
Water Safety plans and Water Quality Monitoring	This will occur in subsequent quarters.
Hand washing facilities alongside communal latrines in IDP locations	A contract has been awarded and work has commenced
Hygiene and Sanitation Media	A Contract has been signed with Radio Ndeke Luka messaging has commenced
Maintenance of Latrines	Cleaning materials distributed on a weekly basis and distribution will continue throughout the project
<b>Sub sector 3: Water Supply Infrastructure</b>	
Rehabilitation of Boreholes (16)	Contractors have been identified and works started in March. The number of boreholes to be rehabilitated was revised to 16 following a mapping exercise. To date 4 out of the 16 boreholes have been repaired. Works continue on the remaining 12 boreholes.
Protection of Shallow Wells (12)	Some wells will be replaced with springs which are in the process of being identified.  The number of shallow wells was revised to 12 following a mapping exercise. The rehabilitation and upgrading of these 12 shallow wells has begun.
Protection of Springs (10)	During WASH infrastructure mapping exercise, 5 out of 10 springs have been selected. Protection works of the springs has begun. The outcome of the mapping exercise was an agreement to protect 8 springs.
Training of pump mechanics (10)	Identification of all ten pump mechanics is complete. Training will be delivered in April

**Table 4: Impact Indicator Progress**

Indicators	Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date

<b>Sub-Sector 1 : Sanitation Infrastructure</b>					
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefiting from the sanitation infrastructure program	0	22,201	14,994	14,994
Indicator 2	S1: Number of households with no evidence of faeces in the living area	2,658	4,408	2,501	2,501
Indicator 3	S4: Number of clean HH latrines completed.	0	1,400	1,098	1,098
Indicator 4	S5: Number of people per usable latrine	0	5	16	16
Indicator 5	S6: Number of hand washing facilities in use	427	4,408	20	447
<b>Sub-Sector 2 : Hygiene Promotion</b>					
Indicator 1	Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	0	28,000	10,712	10,712
Indicator 2	HP1: Number of respondents who know 3 of 5 critical moments to wash hands	5,282	21,000	7,141	7,141
		M:2,630	M:10,458	3,285	3,285
		F:2,652	F:10,542	3,856	3,856
Indicator 3	HP2: Number of HH with soap and water (or ash) at a hand-washing location	To be confirmed next Q	1,400	20	20
Indicator 4	HP3: Number of households who store their drinking water safely in clean containers (Safe Water Handling)	541	4,200	541	541
Indicator 5	HP4: Number of HH drinking water supplies with 0 fecal coliforms per 100 mL sample	0	4,900	Water quality test to be done in Q3	
Indicator 6	HP7: Number of village water user committees active at least 3 months after training	0	28	This will be tested 3 months after the training which was completed in March.	
Indicator 7	HP8: Number of water points that are clean and protected from contamination	0	40	4	4
<b>Sub-Sector 3 : Water Supply Infrastructure</b>					
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefiting from the water supply programme	0	21,000	2280	2280
Indicator 2	WS1: Average litres/person/day collected from all sources for drinking, cooking and hygiene	13.5	15.0	15.0	15.0

Indicator 3	WS2: Estimated water supplied per beneficiary in litres per person per day	To be confirmed next Q	15	13.3	13.3
Indicator 4	WS3: Number of test results with 0 faecal coliforms per 100 mL sample	0	270	Water test to be done in Q3	
Indicator 5	WS5: Number of HH collecting water for drinking, cooking and hygiene from improved water sources	0	4,200	380	380
Indicator 6	WS6: Number of water points which are actively utilizing their Water Safety Plan	0	28	4	4

## CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

### Security

In the week commencing January 25, there were demonstrations by communities in Boda against Tearfund's (and another INGO's) recruitment policy. Young people in the area are looking for work and were demanding that Tearfund recruit 80% of staff from the local area. This is not possible given the limited skills and education of the population so Tearfund carried out negotiations with the community to resolve the situation. The outcome of these is that Tearfund will continue to have a transparent and fair recruitment process but will endeavor to recruit as many staff as possible from the local community. Tearfund will continue to monitor the situation and will ensure that Human Resources communication is clear at a local level and the community understands the constraints and requirements for employment. The current situation is calm with understanding from all sides and the Response Manager is closely involved in monitoring the situation and communicating with communities.

### Logistical Constraints

Government processes for the registration of the motorbikes combined with supply chain difficulties are delaying their use in the field, making travel to remote field sites difficult for the large team. This is being addressed by Tearfund's logistics team. Current vehicles are unreliable and over used and bringing the new vehicles into operational use is an urgent priority. Logistical support from the UK office will ensure that the motorbikes are fully functioning by the end of April.

### Human Resources

A lack of skilled local staff is an ongoing issue in the Central African Republic. To address this Tearfund has been in process of restructuring the staffing of the programme to fit the context, including the use of short term contracts to cover key positions while waiting for the recruitment process to complete. Recruitment to complete the local staff team is ongoing but is expected to be completed by the end of April.

The Food Security Project Manager resigned from his position in February and left the programme. Interim arrangements were put in place as Tearfund brought in staff from other programmes to provide temporary cover while recruitment is ongoing.



Management structures remain unchanged however additional support staff are being put in place, these include an additional Area Coordinator and an Area Logistics Manager (both being international staff) and are solely funded by Tearfund. These supplementary staff members will enhance the team's capacity to closely and regularly (weekly) monitor implementation, especially in WASH, ensuring that implementation remains on track. Support from the UK has recently been enhanced as a new Programme Officer has recently taken up their position providing additional technical expertise and guidance.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Reporting to the Area Coordinator and the Country Director by the sectoral project managers, has been increased to weekly. The action plans are closely scrutinized and monitored on a weekly basis, particularly those around WASH and the work and progress of the WASH contractors will continue to be closely monitored to ensure the physical infrastructure work is completed before the end of the dry season which is end of June. The size of the Monitoring and Evaluation team has been increased from one person to two people to enable increased scrutiny and monitoring as the project reaches its final stages.